

A Commonplace Calendar

While politicians anxiously awaited good news from Washington a hundred years ago in May, pioneer Iowa farmers hoped for warmer weather and merchants wished that trade would soon improve.

Tuesday, May 1. The Dubuque county commissioners met at the courthouse. The fee for a tavern license to sell wines, beer, ale, and cider "by the drink, and in no larger quantities" was fixed at \$20. A grocery (saloon) license cost \$100.

Wednesday, May 2. William Richards rented a building opposite the Madison Hotel in Fort Madison and opened a shop to make saddles, bridles, martingales, collars, trunks, and all kinds of harness.

Thursday, May 3. Samuel Smith and Miss Eliza Burkaloo were married in Lee County.

Friday, May 4. The *Irene*, bound from Saint Louis to Dubuque, docked at Fort Madison.

Saturday, May 5. Charter members of the Iowa Mutual Fire Insurance Company met at the office of W. W. Chapman and James W. Grimes in Burlington to organize for business. J Morgan

Evans died. He was only thirty-two, but his staunch Presbyterian faith "disarmed death of all its terrors." § Serrilda Hume petitioned for a divorce from Milton Hume.

Monday, May 7. Patrick Quigley was re-elected to the legislature from which he had resigned in January, and L. H. Langworthy was chosen to take the place of A. W. McGregor who had also resigned. § James G. Edwards was elected first president of Fort Madison.

Tuesday, May 8. A miner named Hildreth was killed when a rock fell on him "at the diggings on the Coleman lot, about two miles west" of Dubuque.

Wednesday, May 9. H. W. Sample had 15,000 feet of well-seasoned pine lumber for sale in Fort Madison.

Thursday, May 10. A sorrel mare and a roan colt strayed from John Freeman's pasture at West Point.

Friday, May 11. The trustees of Fort Madison held their first meeting at the residence of James G. Edwards.

Saturday, May 12. Signs of spring were not yet visible because the buds had been nipped by frost. § Though the river was still high, few steamboats were running. Little freight was being shipped and rates were low. Money was scarce.

Times were hard. § James W. Grimes announced his hope of being elected in August to the position of Representative of Des Moines County in the legislature of Wisconsin Territory.

Sunday, May 13. Ann Anderson, the wife of William Anderson, died at the age of thirty-three. A Cumberland Presbyterian Church member, she was "much esteemed by all who knew her."

Monday, May 14. Directors of the "Rochester and Des Moines Hydraulic and Manufacturing Company" met at Rochester. § John Plumbe of Dubuque, representing the proprietor of a large tract of pine land on the Chippewa River, invited enterprising men to invest in sawmills.

Tuesday, May 15. The *Irene*, on her way to Saint Louis, called at the port of Fort Madison.

Wednesday, May 16. At Fort Madison, Edward White had his steam ferry running; Jesse Dickey opened a new store to sell hardware, queensware, groceries, and clothing for cash or country produce; Clark and Shackelford, forwarding and commission merchants, started a drayage service.

Thursday, May 17. Flour was selling for \$10 a barrel, corn for \$1.25 a bushel, potatoes for \$1.00 a bushel, beef and pork at 12½ cents a pound, butter at 35 cents a pound, and eggs at 37½ cents a dozen.

Friday, May 18. Mary L. Scott, the wife of John P. Scott at Peru, died at the age of seventeen.

Saturday, May 19. Charles Nealley moved his store from the corner of Court and Main streets in Burlington to Water Street.

Monday, May 21. Enos Lowe was appointed postmaster at Burlington.

Tuesday, May 22. The *Irene* stopped at Fort Madison on her way from Saint Louis to Dubuque.

Wednesday, May 23. Residents of Fort Madison missed the weekly issue of the *Patriot*. Important business, demanding personal attention, had taken the editor out of town.

Thursday, May 24. Sheriff Henry Hiffleman married Miss Malinda King, daughter of Major H. King, at Farmington.

Friday, May 25. Any horse, mare, or gelding in the Territory was eligible to enter the races at Mount Pleasant.

Saturday, May 26. The cold, unseasonable weather continued.

Sunday, May 27. Several drunken men who visited the camp of Winnebago Indians on the island below Dubuque tried to seduce some of the girls. In the fight that ensued an old squaw was killed and several persons were hurt. Singleton, the murderer, escaped.

Monday, May 28. The trustees of Fort Madison adopted a long ordinance regulating taxation.

Tuesday, May 29. Mark M. Jeffreys, a former clerk in Lockwood's store in Dubuque, confessed to have stolen about a hundred dollars worth of merchandise. He was not prosecuted.

Wednesday, May 30. Any one who had not been vaccinated could have that opportunity by calling at the office of Dr. Joel C. Walker, a health officer of Fort Madison. § Arthur Johnson's new bakery could supply ginger bread, rusks, crackers, light bread, and pies to families on short notice. § Hawkins Taylor announced his desire to represent Lee County in the Territorial legislature to be elected in August.

Thursday, May 31. A severe frost destroyed the corn and many garden vegetables. § "Nearly 2,000 savages, in their finest rigs and carefully painted in all sorts of patterns" met Father Pierre De Smet when he landed from a Missouri River steamboat to establish a mission among the Pottawattamie Indians where Council Bluffs is now located.

JOHN ELY BRIGGS